

CLAIMS:

1. A soft, chewable confection containing an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient consists essentially of an effective amount of at least one probiotic organism, wherein the confection is obtained without using high heat or dehydration.
2. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 1, wherein the confection contains no dairy.
3. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 1, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is from approximately 1×10^5 to approximately 2×10^5 organisms per confection.
4. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 1, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is at least 2×10^5 organisms per confection.
5. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 1, wherein the probiotic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacteria*, *Lactococcus*, and *Streptococcus*, and combinations thereof.
6. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 1, wherein the probiotic organism is *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, or *Lactobacillus bifidus*, or combinations thereof.
7. A soft, chewable confection containing an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient consists essentially of an effective amount of at least one probiotic organism and an effective amount of at least one prebiotic, wherein the confection is obtained without using high heat or dehydration.
8. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 7, wherein the confection contains no dairy.

9. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 7, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is from approximately 1×10^5 to approximately 2×10^5 organisms per confection.
10. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 7, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is at least 2×10^5 organisms per confection.
11. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 7, wherein the probiotic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Lactococcus*, and *Streptococcus*, and combinations thereof.
12. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 7, wherein the probiotic organism is *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, or combinations thereof.
13. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 7, wherein the prebiotic is derived from inulin, chicory or honey.
14. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 7, wherein the prebiotic is derived from honey.
15. A soft, chewable confection containing an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient consists essentially of an effective amount of at least one probiotic organism and a nutrient contained in a glycoprotein matrix, or an enzyme, or both, wherein the confection is obtained without using high heat or dehydration.
16. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the confection contains no dairy.
17. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is from approximately 1×10^5 to approximately 2×10^5 organisms per confection.

18. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is at least 2×10^5 organisms per confection.
19. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the probiotic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Lactococcus*, and *Streptococcus*, and combinations thereof.
20. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the probiotic organism is *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, or combinations thereof.
21. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the nutrient contained in a glycoprotein matrix is coenzyme Q₁₀, L-carnitine, or alpha lipoic acid, or a combination thereof.
22. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the enzyme is lactase or papain, or a combination thereof.
23. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 15, wherein the nutrient contained in a glycoprotein matrix is coenzyme Q₁₀, L-carnitine, alpha lipoic acid, or a combination thereof, and the enzyme is lactase or papain, or a combination thereof.
24. A soft, chewable confection containing an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient consists essentially of at least one probiotic organism, at least one prebiotic, and a nutrient contained in a glycoprotein matrix, or an enzyme, or both, wherein the confection is obtained without using high heat or dehydration.
23. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the confection contains no dairy.
24. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is from approximately 1×10^5 to approximately 2×10^5 organisms per confection.

25. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the effective amount of probiotic organism is at least 2×10^5 organisms per confection.
26. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the probiotic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Lactococcus*, and *Streptococcus*, and combinations thereof.
27. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the probiotic organism is *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, or combinations thereof.
28. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the prebiotic is inulin, chicory or honey.
29. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the prebiotic is honey.
30. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the nutrient contained in a glycoprotein matrix is coenzyme Q₁₀, L-carnitine, or alpha lipoic acid, or a combination thereof.
31. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the enzyme is lactase or papain, or a combination thereof.
32. A soft, chewable confection according to claim 24, wherein the nutrient contained in a glycoprotein matrix is coenzyme Q₁₀, L-carnitine, or alpha lipoic acid, or a combination thereof, and the enzyme is lactase or papain, or a combination thereof.
33. A method for enhancing immune function of a host in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a confection according to claim 1.

32. A method for enhancing immune function of a host in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a confection according to claim 7.
33. A method for enhancing immune function of a host in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a confection according to claim 15.
34. A method for enhancing immune function of a host in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a confection according to claim 24.
35. A method for providing probiotic organisms to a lactose intolerant host in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a soft, chewable confection containing an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient consists essentially of an effective amount of at least one probiotic organism, wherein the confection is obtained without using high heat or dehydration, and wherein the confection contains no dairy.
36. A method for providing probiotic organisms to a lactose intolerant host in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a soft, chewable confection containing an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient consists essentially of an effective amount of at least one probiotic organism, and an effective amount of lactase, wherein the confection is obtained without using high heat or dehydration.